

In the Claims:

47. (currently amended) A combination packaging and structural system adapted to ~~that~~ protects a product during shipment and that is formable to be formed into a structural unit, the combined packaging and structural system comprising:

a plurality of three-dimensional elements;

wherein each of the three-dimensional elements includes a cavity formed therein that is adapted to be removably mated to a portion of the product ~~during shipment of the product in a shipping configuration~~, wherein in the shipping configuration, the plurality of three-dimensional elements removably mate with the product to form a composite structure;

wherein each of the three-dimensional elements includes an interlocking portion that is adapted to interlock with an interlocking portion of another three-dimensional element of the plurality of three-dimensional elements; and

wherein the plurality of three-dimensional units are adapted to be directly interlocked using their interlocking portions to hold the plurality of three-dimensional units in a structural configuration to form the structural unit, wherein the structural configuration differs from the shipping configuration.

48. (currently amended) The combination packaging and structural system of claim 47, wherein ~~when the plurality of three-dimensional elements are removably mated to the product, a~~ the composite structure is formed that is adapted to fit an internal shape of within a shipping container.

49. (currently amended) The combination packaging and structural system of claim 48:

wherein the plurality of three-dimensional elements comprise ~~six~~ eight three-dimensional elements;

wherein the composite structure includes ~~six~~ eight corners; and

wherein each of the ~~six~~ eight three-dimensional elements corresponds to a respective corner of the ~~six~~ eight corners.

50. (previously presented)The combination packaging and structural system of claim 48:

wherein the plurality of three-dimensional elements comprise two three-dimensional elements; and

wherein each of the two three-dimensional elements corresponds to a respective half of the composite structure.

51. (previously presented)The combination packaging and structural system of claim 50, wherein respective cavities of the two three-dimensional elements are adapted to receive a respective side of the product.

52. (previously presented)The combination packaging and structural system of claim 47, wherein the interlocking portion comprises a tongue and groove structure formed in a surface of the three-dimensional element.

53. (previously presented)The combination packaging and structural system of claim 47, wherein the interlocking portion comprises a tongue and groove structure formed in a plurality of surfaces of the three-dimensional element.

54. (previously presented)The combination packaging and structural system of claim 47, wherein the plurality of three-dimensional elements are foam structures.

55. (previously presented)The combination packaging and structural system of claim 47, wherein the structural unit comprises a construction product.

56. (previously presented)The combination packaging and structural system of claim 47, wherein the structural unit comprises a flotation product.

57. (previously presented)The combination packaging and structural system of claim 47, wherein the structural unit comprises a portion of a wall form for pourable building material.

58. (previously presented)The combination packaging and structural system of claim 47, wherein each of the plurality of three-dimensional elements further comprises a connector opening adapted to receive a connector that permanently joins the plurality of three-dimensional elements.

59. (previously presented)The combination packaging and structural system of claim 47, wherein at least one of the plurality of three-dimensional elements further comprises a passage formed therein.

60. (currently amended) A combination packaging and structural system adapted to that protects a plurality of products during shipment and that is formable to be formed into a structural unit, the combined packaging and structural system comprising:

a plurality of three-dimensional elements;

wherein each of the three-dimensional elements includes a plurality of cavities, each cavity of the plurality of cavities adapted to be removably mated to a portion of a respective product of the plurality of products during shipment in a shipping configuration, wherein in the shipping configuration, the plurality of three-dimensional elements removably mate with the plurality of products to form a composite structure;

wherein each of the three-dimensional elements includes an interlocking portion, wherein the interlocking portion is adapted to interlock with an interlocking portion of another three-dimensional element of the plurality of three-dimensional elements; and

wherein the plurality of three-dimensional units are adapted to be directly interlocked using their interlocking portions to hold the plurality of three-dimensional units in a structural configuration to form the structural unit, wherein the structural configuration differs from the shipping configuration.

61. (currently amended) The combination packaging and structural system of claim 60, wherein ~~when the plurality of three-dimensional elements are removably mated to the product, a~~ the composite structure is formed that is adapted to fit an internal shape of within a shipping container.

62. (currently amended) The combination packaging and structural system of claim 61:

wherein the plurality of three-dimensional elements comprise ~~six~~ eight three-dimensional elements;

wherein the composite structure includes ~~six~~ eight corners; and

wherein each of the ~~six~~ eight three-dimensional elements corresponds to a respective corner of the ~~six~~ eight corners.

63. (previously presented) The combination packaging and structural system of claim 61:

wherein the plurality of three-dimensional elements comprise two three-dimensional elements; and

wherein each of the two three-dimensional elements corresponds to a respective half of the composite structure.

64. (currently amended) The combination packaging and structural system of claim 63, wherein each of the two three-dimensional elements includes a plurality of cavities adapted to receive a respective sides of the plurality of products.

65. (previously presented) The combination packaging and structural system of claim 60, wherein the interlocking portion comprises a tongue and groove structure formed in a surface of the three-dimensional element.

66. (previously presented) The combination packaging and structural system of claim 60, wherein the interlocking portion comprises a tongue and groove structure formed in a plurality of surfaces of the three-dimensional element.

67. (previously presented)The combination packaging and structural system of claim 60, wherein the plurality of three-dimensional elements are foam structures.

68. (previously presented)The combination packaging and structural system of claim 60, wherein the structural unit comprises a construction product.

69. (previously presented)The combination packaging and structural system of claim 60, wherein the structural unit comprises a flotation product.

70. (previously presented)The combination packaging and structural system of claim 60, wherein the structural unit comprises a portion of a wall form for pourable building material.

71. (previously presented)The combination packaging and structural system of claim 60, wherein each of the plurality of three-dimensional elements further comprises a connector opening adapted to receive a connector that permanently joins the plurality of three-dimensional elements.

72. (previously presented)The combination packaging and structural system of claim 60, wherein at least one of the plurality of three-dimensional elements further comprises a passage formed therein.